

Indianapolis Theatres collection L520

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Circle Theatre (Indianapolis, Ind.).
Creator	English Theatre (Indianapolis, Ind.).
Creator	Indiana Theatre Association, Incorporated.
Creator	Lyric Theatre (Indianapolis, Ind.).
Title	Indianapolis Theatres collection
Date	1915-1949
Extent	2.3 Cubic feet 1 manuscript box and 4 medium oversize boxes
Language	English

Preferred Citation

Indianapolis Theatres collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Administrative History

William H. English built the English Theatre and Opera House in the 1880's. The company and theatre remained in existence until April 20, 1948.

Bodenhamer, David J., Robert G. Barrows, and David G. Vanderstel. The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Administrative History

The Indiana Ballroom was built in 1927 as an addition to the Indiana Theatre. The Indiana Theatre hosted a variety of events including: vaudeville shows, plays, orchestra performances, feature full-length motion pictures, and swing dances.

Bodenhamer, David J., Robert G. Barrows, and David G. Vanderstel. The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Administrative History

The Circle Theatre opened August 30, 1916 as the first building in Indianapolis built for the purpose of feature length motion pictures. It was the first theatre in Indiana to premier "the Jazz Singer", the first "talkie" movie.

Bodenhamer, David J., Robert G. Barrows, and David G. Vanderstel. The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Administrative History

"In 1916, several local businessmen set out to finance the construction of a theater on Monument Circle, on a site occupied by a livery stable for much of the 19th century. Designed by Indianapolis architects

Rubus & Hunter, the theater was built in a Neo-Classical Revival style – marked by symmetry, bright colors and simplicity and inspired by the arts of ancient Greece and Rome – and its interior was designed in the style of 18th-century architect Robert Adam, who employed motifs from Greek, Etruscan and Pompeian artists.

The pastoral-themed mural over the marquee, which still remains, was created by Irvington Group artist Clifton Wheeler.

For much of the 20th century, the theater served as a majestic venue for film and live acts. In 1928, the first movie with sound ever shown in Indianapolis, *The Jazz Singer*, was shown at the theater. In the 1940s, big band jazz groups, including the Glenn Miller Orchestra, played on the theater's stage.

By the 1970s, the Circle Theatre had fallen into disrepair as suburban movie theaters were becoming more popular. In 1980, then-commercial real estate broker George Kuhn approached Zane Todd, the chairman and chief executive officer of Indianapolis Power & Light Company (the next-door neighbor to the Circle Theatre), about having IPL buy and renovate the theater for the community. IPL purchased the building, took the lead in the theater's \$7 million renovation, and the new home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra became a realization on October 12, 1984."

"Hilbert Circle Theatre." Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Accessed January 27, 2016. <https://www.indianapolissymphony.org/about/hilbert-circle-theatre>

Scope and Contents

This collection includes the business record books and inventories for the Circle Theatre, Indiana Ball Room, and the English Theatre as well as some small cards from the Lyric Theatre.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically by theatre and then chronologically. There are six volumes created by the Circle Theatre in oversize boxes.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2016/02/02 by Lauren Patton. EAD finding aid created 2016/02/02 by Lauren Patton.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Theaters--Indiana

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Circle Theatre cost and inventories, 1916-1933	1	1
Circle Theatre Company Articles of Reorganization, 1937	1	2
English Theatre financial papers, 1947-1949	1	3
Indiana Ball Room inventories, 1933, 1939	1	4
Indiana Ball Room inventory, 1939	1	5
Indiana Ball Room inventory, 1940	1	6
Lyric Theatre request card, undated	1	7
Lincoln Square Realty Articles of Incorporation certificate, 1926	2	1
	Box	Volume
Circle Theatre minutes, 1915-1929	2	1
Circle Theatre trial balance, 1919-1921	2	2
Circle Theatre inventory, 1926	3	1

Circle Theatre expense book, 1933	3	2
Circle Theatre cash journal, 1924-1928	4	1
Circle Theatre cash journal, 1926-1935	5	1